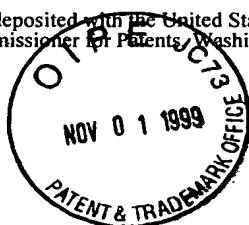


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Date of Signature and Deposit: October 28, 1999



Bennett J. Berson

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark R. McCormick

Date: October 28, 1999

Serial No.: 08/724,631

Examiner: G. Kunz

Filed: October 1, 1996

Group Art Unit: 1623

For: METHOD FOR PRECIPITATING NUCLEIC  
ACID WITH VISIBLE CARRIER

File No.: 700399.90053

RESPONSE

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington DC 20231

NOV 5 1999

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed May 28, 1999, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 14 and 15 and amend Claims 1, 13, 16, 18, and 22-24 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for precipitating unprecipitated nucleic acid from an aqueous solution, the method comprising the step of:  
adding to the solution a polymeric carrier molecule coupled to an indicator molecule, [wherein the solution comprises] and an amount of a salt and an amount of an alcohol sufficient to [cause] precipitate the nucleic acid [to precipitate] from the solution.

13. (Amended Three Times) An aqueous composition for precipitating nucleic acids, the composition comprising:  
an indicator molecule coupled to a [carrier] glycogen molecule[, said carrier conjugate] that co-precipitates with nucleic acid molecules from an aqueous solution, along with sufficient salt and alcohol to effect said co-precipitation.